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Mike Mansfield 1903-2001

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STATEMENT OF SENATOR MIKE MANSFIELD (D) MONTANA

1957 has been a year of trouble, indecision and shock. It is now behind us. It is time to live in the present ; to face the facts of life as they are and not as we would wish them to be; and to plan for the future with courage, confidence and hope.

The American people in my opinion, are very much aware of the difficulties which confront this Nation and the free world. They are looking to a Republican Administration and a Democratic Congress for leadership and guidance. The Congress is prepared to do its full share to further the national interest and both parties are, in my opinion, placing the security of the country ahead of the welfare of their parties. The times call for and demand tri-partisanship between the two parties in Congress and the Executive. The months ahead will be decisive months that may witness new crises which will again strip the thin thread of peace. Or the coming months may mark the beginning of a new stage in foreign policy. It may be a stage in which the President and the Congress embark on a rational search for ways of reflecting more accurately the attitudes of the American people in the policy of the United States, a search for ways of reflecting less the fears and uncertainties with which we live and more the faith and confidence which underlie the freedom and greatness of this country. The challenge before us is to turn mankind from the dangerous flirtation with human extinction which now goes on, to the work of constructing the free institutions and the durable relations which will make possible a decent living; a decent degree of security, and a decent fulfillment for the people of this Nation and all Nations.

We face a challenge of faith and action. We will endeavor to meet this in a non-partisan spirit with faith in ourselves, in the intelligence, the courage and steadfastness of the people of this country, and faith in the power and in the ultimate triumph of freedom throughout the world. It is on this faith that this nation has grown to greatness. It is on this faith that we can depend to find the way to just and enduring peace.